

REMARKS

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated June 18, 2004. Claims 1 to 30 are pending in the application, of which Claims 1, 11, 17 and 21 are independent. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Claim 1 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) over U.S. Patent No. 5,119,108 (Hatakeyama). Reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are respectfully requested.

The present invention concerns a multi-media printer that accepts various kinds of voucher media, such as thermally writable media, smart cards, or magnetic strip cards. The multi-media printer includes writing, reading, and erasing devices within the printer to manage and use the different types of media. In addition, the multi-media printer includes control logic and articulated printing mechanisms that prevent the multi-media printer from inadvertently manipulating a voucher in an inappropriate manner. The design of the multi-media printer is modular so that voucher media magazines may be replaced as needed.

Turning now to specific claim language, amended independent Claim 1 is directed to a multi-media gaming printer comprising a print module including two or more heads, each head for reading and writing a different type of card, the two or more heads selected from the group including a thermal card read/write-head comprising a thermal write head and an optical read head, a magnetic strip card read/write head and a smart card connector, and a controller coupled to the two or more heads.

In contrast, Hatakeyama discloses a thermal printer using a plurality of in-line type thermal heads to create a print head suitable for recording (e.g., printing and plotting) image data on a large-sized recording sheet. As such, Hatakeyama neither discloses nor suggests two or more heads in a single print module for manipulating different types of cards.

JP-58118288 (Miyashita) discloses a printer for printing on both sides of a paper. The printer is equipped with first magnetic heads for reading magnetic encoding information, second magnetic heads for writing new information and a printing mechanism. The printing mechanism includes a pair of thermal print heads. However, Miyashita fails to disclose a thermal head having a thermal print head and an optical read head. Therefore, the printer of Miyashita cannot manipulate a thermal read/write card. Instead, the printer of Miyashita magnetically read and write a ticket having a magnetic strip but only thermally write to the ticket.

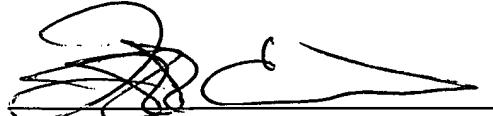
JP61120776 (Takao) discloses a printer having a thermal head and a magnetic head, both for printing, mounted on a carrier with a phase differential of 90 degrees between them. The carrier is mounted on a rotor and rotates the carrier to engage the different heads. However, Takao fails to disclose read/write heads used for reading and writing vouchers composed of different media.

Claims 2 to 13 are each dependent from Claim 1 discussed above and are therefore believed allowable for the same reasons. Because each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual consideration of each dependent claim on its own merits is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, and no other matters being raised in the Office Action, the entire application is believed to be in condition for allowance, and such action is respectfully requested at the Examiner's earliest convenience.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, CA office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



Frank L. Cire
Attorney for Applicants
Registration No. 42,419

FITZPATRICK, CELLA, HARPER & SCINTO
30 Rockefeller Plaza
New York, New York 10112-2200
Facsimile: (212) 218-2200

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